

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 IO-10

SAB-01 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5349

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 7237

FOR UNDERSEC SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: REUTERS REPORT

REF: STATE 174224

1. YOU ARE INDEED CORRECT THAT, IN LIGHT OF ISRAELI EMBASSY
EXPLANATION (REFTEL), PM RABIN'S STATEMENT IS BEING MISREAD
HERE. BBC BROADCASTS AS OF 7-8 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING HAVE NOT
HELPED. THEY REPORT RABIN'S STATEMENT ALONG LINES OF REUTERS

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REPORT, GIVING IMPRESSION OF TOUGH STANCE.

2. STATEMENT BY SADAT YESTERDAY IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM MEMBER OF ASU CONGRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS, WAS PROBABLY MADE BEFORE RABIN'S STATEMENT. SADAT SAID: QUOTE I SAID YESTERDAY THAT IF THE QUESTION ON THE PHASE WE GO THROUGH REQUIRES NEGOTIATIONS, WE WILL NEGOTIATE AND IF IT REQUIRES FIGHTING, WE WILL FIGHT. NEGOTIATIONS HERE MEAN THOSE THAT ARE NOW TAKING PLACE THROUGH A THIRD PARTY BEFORE GENEVA, NAMELY THE UNITED STATES. BUT AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WE WILL SIT TO DEBATE THE PROBLEM EXACTLY AS WE SIT AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND WE WILL SPEAK OUR MIND, DEBATE AND NEGOTIATE EXACTLY AS WE NEGOTIATE AT THE UNITED NATIONS. HOWEVER, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THERE ARE NO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS IN ANY FORM. UNQUOTE.

3. HOWEVER, COMMENT ATTRIBUTED TO HIGH EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL (TAHSIN BASHIR) LAST NIGHT DID ADDRESS ITSELF TO RABIN STATEMENT: BASHIR REPORTEDLY SAID, ACCORDING TO NYT CORRESPONDENT HENRY TANNER, THAT IF RABIN MEANT TO INSIST ON DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, IT WOULD BE A STAB IN THE BACK TO NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND WOULD UNDERMIND US EFFORTS. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO LETDOWN RECEIVED FROM ISRAELIS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ASWAN TALKS.

4. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL PRESS INQUIRIES CONCERNING MATTER. ALTHOUGH WE ARE BEING CAREFUL NOT TO ACT AS ISRAEL SPOKESMEN, WE ARE INDICATING THAT IT IS OUR UNDERSTAND THAT ISRAELIS ARE BRIEFING PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN RABIN STATEMENT AND THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO FOLLOW LINES OF PREVIOUS DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.
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